

The collectors spent the rest of their time together in field work on the rainless desert coast of Peru. Then the Michelbachers and Mrs. Ross sailed from Callao on the Grace Line's S. S. *Santa Flavia*, while Dr. Ross drove south again to Valparaiso. Here the Curator nearly doubled the estimated 100,000 total of insects collected by acquiring for the Academy the private collection of Dr. E. P. Reed, known as the finest existing collection of Chilean insects. With all this old and new material brought together at the California Academy of Sciences and made available for study by specialists—the Academy thus becoming the chief world center for such studies—a great deal will be added to knowledge of the Andean insect fauna.

Making use of a month at sea to work on material he collected of his own special group, the Embioptera, Dr. Ross returned to San Francisco May 26 aboard the Grace Line freighter, S. S. *Santa Eliana*. So ended the most extensive entomological expedition ever made to the Andean region, a part of South America not well covered by non-resident scientists.

SOUTH SEAS SAILING

A PACIFIC EQUATORIAL EXPEDITION by the California Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has been announced by Dr. R. C. Miller, Director of the C. A. S., and Mr. George Vanderbilt, representing the Philadelphia Academy and heading the project.

Mr. Vanderbilt's 175-foot auxiliary schooner, the *Pioneer*, sailed June 1 from Newport, California, Hawaii-bound. Taking part for the Academy, Dr. Earl S. Herald, Curator of Aquatic Biology in charge of the Steinhart Aquarium, will go aboard in Honolulu later this summer. From Hawaii the *Pioneer* will proceed to the South Sea islands—the Marquesas, Tuamotus, the Society Islands—to collect birds, fishes, and other specimens, and to undertake several research projects, including a study of the vertical distribution of reef fishes.

Special equipment for the expedition will consist of a series of lights for night collecting, and various dredging gear such as a mile of three-eighths-inch cable and deep-water plankton nets.

Under Mr. Vanderbilt as director and curator of collections, there will be a party of nine, including a physician, photographer, and several guests. Dr. Herald will serve as assistant curator of ichthyology.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council has approved the applications of Mr. A. F. Charlton-Thomas, Mr. Howard R. Hammond, Mr. James H. Pollard, Mr. Roy A. Pratt, Mr. Samuel Rouder, and Mr. Joseph J. Zucca for REGULAR MEMBERSHIP, and of Penny Adams for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after June 11, they will be considered elected.

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Courtesy Branan Ward

THIS IS GREENLAND

(See page 2)

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June Announcement

THE REGULAR JUNE MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium in the Academy's new Hall of Science, Golden Gate Park, on Thursday evening, June 14, at 8 o'clock. Mr. Branan Ward will give an illustrated lecture entitled

GREENLAND, ULTIMATE NORTH

Knocking around in submarines during World War II should have taken the yen for adventure out of any young man. Not so with Branan Ward. Perhaps his naval service was largely in the tropics—we don't know; but the winter of 1945 found this second youngest member of the Explorers' Club living with the Eskimos at Point Barrow, Alaska. The next year he skippered a sea-going tug in the Bering Sea; then in 1947 he and a friend paddled a canoe 2,000 miles down the Mackenzie River of northern Canada to the Arctic Ocean, whose shores they reached in time for the Canadian government reindeer roundup. All in all, Ward spent five years in the Arctic, the last fourteen months in northwest Greenland.

His Greenland film was taken 600 miles north of the Arctic Circle. It shows the youthful explorer's experiences among the world's most northern citizens, the Smith Sound Eskimos, who live at Thule, nearly 77° north latitude, on the Greenland coast opposite Ellesmere Island. It shows them harpooning walrus from kiaks, killing them, and eating whole and undigested clams from a walrus' stomach. This, indeed, is the story of the world's most marginal human beings, whose lifelong preoccupation is extracting something edible from the stingiest environment. Sharing their part of earth, if not all their austerities of living, was the eight-man crew of a U. S. Weather Bureau station. Their life and times, too, are recorded on this film, for the fourteen-month period.

Generations of adventurers—explorers, scientists, artists, writers, and all—have been caught in the spell of the Northland. The public is cordially invited to attend this program.

PEACE OF MIND—MUSEUM PIECE?

PEACE OF MIND, like weather, appears to be a thing that everyone talks about, some write books about, but nobody *does* anything about—judging by the conspicuous lack of the calm outlook in our time. It would, at any rate, be an odd twist to the jocular idea of a "museum piece" should it come to light that museums are, not the last resting place of cerebral serenity, but a fountain-head of mental composure for the brave new world.

The practical side of this situation was discussed by experts in Philadelphia between May 31 and June 2, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums. One of the panel topics was "The Rôle of the Museum in Promoting Peace of Mind Today"; one of the experts was the Academy's Director, Dr. Robert C. Miller. Dr. Miller's colleagues in consideration of this subject were Carl T. Russell, Director of Education, American Museum of Natural History; Thorne Deuel, Director of the Illinois State Museum; Bruno Gebhard, Director of the Cleveland Health Museum; and Carl E. Guthe, Director of the New York State Museum.

Dr. Miller left San Francisco in time to take part in a special conference on planetarium problems, May 30, a preliminary to the regular Association meeting.

INSECT HUNTERS IN THE ANDES

A QUARTET OF ENTOMOLOGISTS, Dr. and Mrs. E. S. Ross of the California Academy of Sciences and Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Michelbacher of the University of California, found good hunting in the southern Andes, this last summer. (There was no winter of 1950-51 for the four, who sailed from San Francisco last October.) They are now home with their collections, having left South America just as winter was coming on.

Landing at Valparaiso in November, the party struck out at once in its specially equipped truck—everything needed for collecting and camping out, in one unit—for rocky, semi-desert, north central Chile. After a cold and rugged month there, the expedition worked southward in Chile to Puerto Montt, end of roads. This took them into the heart of the famous lake region with its many snow-capped volcanos and ancient, damp, leech-infested antarctic beech (*Nothofagus*) forests. The discomforts of camping out in this cold, soggy southland were more than offset by the reward of strange insects found nowhere else in the world, insects whose ancient lineage can be traced to a common ancestry with those of temperate Australia and New Zealand.

Returning to Valparaiso, the entomologists headed east, to cross the Andes by the 12,700-foot pass marked by the famous statue of "Christ of the Andes." Alpine plants gave them good collecting.

Dropping down into Argentina, the party felt very much "at home" in the desert around Mendoza—here was the same pungent smell of creosote bush (*Larrea*) that is so much a part of our own Southwest. From desert they drove eastward across vast, gentle swells of grass, the sea-like pampas. Turning north at Rio Cuarto to cross miles of thorny jungle like that of the Gulf coast plain of Mexico, they collected insects under prime season conditions.

At Jujuy began the climb to Bolivia's *altiplano*. With strangely garbed Indians, llamas and alpacas on every side, the truck slid and bounced along the barely passable roads of Bolivia to Lake Titicaca and Peru. Continuing along the Andean crest, down into and up out of numerous deep canyons cut by Amazon tributaries, through ancient Cusco, and over the old Inca trail, the truck, gasping for air, finally crossed the 15,000-foot pass that was the gateway to Lima and the Peruvian coastal plain.